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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1917.

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TELEGRAMS.

CHINA AND GERMANY.

Parliament to Decide Question of Rupture.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Shanghai, March 8.
The President, the Vice-President and the Premier agreed yesterday to submit the question of a rupture with Germany to Parliament.
Tsao Ki-shui, the Premier, resumes office, but Wu Ting-fang, Foreign Minister, resigns.

[Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph."]

London, February 8.
Reuter learns from an authoritative source that the Chinese Premier has withdrawn his resignation.

[Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph."]

ANOTHER PLOT IN AMERICA.

Plan to Invade India via China.

London, March 8.
According to Reuter's correspondent at New York, Indian and German doctors have been accused of conspiring to set up a military expedition.

The Police say the prisoners have confessed that they plotted, under the direction of von Igel, formerly of Count Bernstorff's Staff, to invade India via China.

The Indian posed as a Persian merchant, and fraudulently obtained a passport to Berlin, where he conferred with prominent officials. He later returned to New York and assisted von Igel in the preparation of literature in various Indian languages, and carried on an active campaign.

The accused received 60,000 dollars.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

Enemy Detachments Punished.

London, March 8.
A French communique says:—On the Verdun front our batteries caught enemy detachments on the northern outskirts of Matancourt wood.

German organisations in Eparges wood were effectively bombed.

There was lively artillery firing in the Maison de Champagne and Embermenil sectors.

More German Prisoners.

London, March 8.
A French communique says:—There have been lively artillery firing and patrol encounters in the region of Meulan sous Touvent, between the Oise and the Aisne.

Our detachments penetrated German trenches north-east of Embermenil, in Lorraine, and inflicted severe damage, besides bringing back prisoners.

An enemy attack near Seppois le Haut, in Alsace, completely failed, leaving some prisoners.

Our reconnaissances inflicted losses on the enemy in the direction of Hilsenfirst.

FRENCH DESTROYER TORPEDOED.

Over 100 Lives Lost.

London, March 8.
A Paris official message says that the destroyer Cassini was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on February 28.
The magazine exploded and the boat sank in two minutes.
Seven officers and one hundred men perished, two officers and thirty-two men being saved.

German Devilry.

London, March 8.
Reuter's correspondent at Paris says that the Captain of the Cassini perished.

The survivors state that they were struggling in the sea in the darkness, striving to reach floating rafts, when they heard voices shouting in French:—"This way comrades." Then a submarine appeared and fired on them with rifle or a machine gun, while a shell just missed the raft.

FRENCH SHIPPING AND SUBMARINISM.

London, March 8.
A Paris official announcement says that the 859 merchantmen arrived at French ports during the week ending March 4. Those sunk were one over and one under 1,600 tons. Nine were unsuccessfully attacked. Sixteen French fishing boats were sunk.

RUSSIAN PROGRESS.

London, March 8.
A Russian communique says:—We are punishing the Turks from Hamadan.
Military operations continue to develop in the direction of Bidjar and Dohabek.

TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph."]

DARDANELLES COMMISSION'S REPORT.

Severe Strictures on War Council Members.

London, March 8.
The Dardanelles Commission's Report has been issued.
The majority finds that Mr. Churchill initiated the attacking of the Dardanelles at a meeting of the War Council on November 24, 1914, as the ideal method of defeating Egypt and Russia. He reopened the discussion on January 2, when Lord Kitchener declared that troops were not available. The War Council's acceptance was unfortunate, because investigation would have revealed otherwise. Thus, on January 13, a naval action or no action had to be decided.

The Commission expresses the opinion that Admirals Fisher and Wilson, both of whom did not express dissent to the proposed naval action alone, should have expressed their views if they thought the project, from a naval point of view, was impracticable. They did not object, however, because they regarded the operations as experimental only. The Commission thinks there was an obligation first on Mr. Churchill, and next on Mr. Asquith and other members of the War Council, to insist on a clear expression of expert opinion on a naval action alone, because the chances of surprise by amphibious attack offered such great military and political advantages that it would be mistaken and ill-advised to sacrifice them by a hasty and purely naval attack which could not in itself secure the desired objects.

The decision, on February 16, 1915, to mass troops in the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles marked the critical stage of the whole operation. The Commission considers that inasmuch as time was all-important, no compromise was then possible between making an immediate and vigorous effort to ensure success by joint naval and military occupation, or falling back on their original intention of desisting from a naval attack, if the experiences gained during the bombardment were unsatisfactory.

Lord Kitchener decided on February 20 that the Twenty-ninth Division, part of the troops of which, by a decision on February 16, were to have been sent eastward, should not be sent then, and Colonel Fitzgerald, by Lord Kitchener's order, instructed the Director of Naval Transport, that transports for that Division and the rest of the Expeditionary Force would not be required. This was done without informing Mr. Churchill. The consequent delay of three weeks in the despatch of the troops gravely compromised the probability of the success of the original attack by land forces, and materially increased the difficulties of the final attack.

The Commissioners consider that in view of the opinions of naval and military authorities on the spot, the decision to abandon a naval attack after the bombardment on March 18 was inevitable. They point out that there was no meeting of the War Council between March 19 and April 14 while important land operations were being undertaken. They think that before such operations were commenced, the War Council should have carefully reconsidered the whole position. They are of the opinion that the Premier ought to have summoned a meeting of the War Council for that purpose, and, if not summoned, other members of the War Council should have pressed for such a meeting. They think this was a serious omission.

The Commissioners are of opinion that Lord Kitchener did not sufficiently avail himself of the services of his General Staff, with the result that he undertook more work than it was possible for one man to do, causing confusion and want of efficiency. They are unable to concur in Admiral Fisher's views, that it was his duty, if he differed from Mr. Churchill, to maintain silence at the Council, or to resign. They think that the adoption of any such principle generally would impair the efficiency of the public service. They think that although the main object was not attained, certain political advantages were secured by the expedition, but whether those advantages were worth the loss of life and treasure involved must remain a matter of opinion.

The Report is signed by all the members of the Commission except Mr. W.F. Roach, Liberal M.P. for Pembrokeshire.

Mr. Churchill's Position.

London, March 8.
The Report of the Dardanelles Commission contains a piquant passage. It refers to the part played by Mr. Churchill, who, in the course of his evidence, said:—"In its early stages, the war was carried on by the Premier, Lord Kitchener and me, I think, in the next place. But I had not the same weight of authority or power as those two Ministers, and if they said 'This is to be done or not done,' that settled it." The Commissioners believe this description of the actual working of the machine to be substantially correct, save that Mr. Churchill probably assigned himself to a more unobtrusive part than he actually played.

The Value of the Expedition.

London, March 8.
The Report, which only deals with the origin and inception of the Expedition, covers events to March 23, 1915, and says that while the objective, namely the forcing of the Straits and the reaching of Constantinople, failed, it would be an exaggeration to say that the expedition, considered as a whole, was a complete failure. It was originally undertaken to create a diversion in favour of the Russians, and in this respect it was very fairly successful. Another aspect was the importance attached to its effects in the Balkans. Although it did not secure Bulgaria's neutrality, it can scarcely be doubted that it, but for the expedition, Bulgaria would have joined the Central Powers earlier, and also that a large force of Turks, which might have been employed in other theatres of war, was for a long time immobilised.

TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph."]

IRISH HOME RULE.

Self-Government for Parts of Ireland Which Desire It.

London, March 7.
In the House of Commons, Mr. Lloyd George said that the Government was prepared to grant Home Rule to those parts of Ireland clearly demanding it.

He said that no party would support the demand that Ulster should be forced into the settlement. His offer of self-government to parts of Ireland would take immediate effect. He was not in the least afraid of submitting his proposals to any unbiased friend of Ireland in the Empire. He moved the following amendment:—"That this House would welcome any settlement which would produce a better understanding between Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom, but considers it impossible to impose, by force, on any section of Ireland, a form of Government which has not their consent."

Mr. Lloyd George declared that the dominant consideration in any Irish settlement must be its effect upon the war, and he contended that the different constitutionalists ignored two fundamentals:—Firstly, that Ireland's grievances were not a material one, but something which had to do with pride and self-respect. She was never more prosperous, and yet she was no more reconciled to British rule than in Cromwell's days. Secondly, it would be as glaring an outrage upon the principle of self-government to place Ulster under Irish rule against her will as it would be to deny self-government to the rest of Ireland.

Mr. Lloyd George said he believed that the ideal of national unity in Ireland would be attained at no distant date if Ulster were offered facilities and inducements to come in.

Two Queries.

Later.
The following is the full text of the passage in Mr. Lloyd George's House of Commons speech with reference to the Government offer:—

"I am not in the least afraid of submitting the proposal of the Government to the judgment of any unbiased friend of Ireland in any quarter of the globe. I will put it again, and I want not merely Irishmen to know, but I want men outside the confines of the United Kingdom and the British Empire to know, what it is to-day that we offer. It is that the part of Ireland which clearly demands Home Rule—self government—shall get it. There are two questions to be asked by all of us. The first is:—Are the people of the country prepared to confer self-government on the parts of Ireland which unmistakably demand it? The answer which I give on behalf of the Cabinet is that the Government are firmly of that opinion and are firmly of opinion that that represents the views of the vast majority of the people of this country. The next point is this:—Are the people of this country prepared to force the population of the north-eastern corner of Ireland to submit to be governed by a population with whom they are completely out of sympathy? In my judgment, and here I speak on behalf of the Government, they are not."

Mr. Asquith's Suggestion.

London, March 7.
In the House of Commons, following Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Asquith suggested that the Irish question should be referred to an outside and impartial authority for the adjustment of the interests and sentiments concerned. The constitution of such a body might be facilitated by the presence here of a number of Dominion statesmen, who had already solved the various problems of local autonomy in different ways.

Mr. Asquith prefaced his suggestion by a declaration that he did not think a recrudescence of rebellion in Ireland was likely, as the forces at the disposal of the Executive were such that any movement would be crushed. Nevertheless, the symptoms were disquieting. Mr. Asquith discussed conceivable expedients for a settlement, but did not think that a renewal of negotiations between the parties was likely to be successful. The only practicable alternative was to invoke the intervention of some outside impartial authority. It would be essential that such authority should act most promptly, and that its decision should be subject to the final approval of Parliament.

Mr. Lloyd George interjected, asking whether such a body would enquire and report to the Government, or whether it would have statutory powers.

Mr. Asquith replied "No," adding that he would make its decision subject to the approval of Parliament, which should be the final authority.

Mr. Redmond, following Mr. Asquith, said if the constitutional movement in Ireland disappeared, Mr. Lloyd George must govern Ireland with a naked sword. He asked why Mr. Lloyd George had not appealed to Sir Edward Carson to make a sacrifice and to agree on a proposal which would be acceptable to the whole of Ireland.

Mr. Wardle, Labour M.P., regretted that Mr. Lloyd George had moved the amendment. The House should not have been asked the unfair question as to whether it is prepared to coerce Ulster in the actual circumstances.

Mr. Lloyd George, replying, said he had suggested two methods of dealing with the details of the Government's proposal, either by a conference of Irishmen, or by the establishment of a commission. The latter was practically identical with Mr. Asquith's proposal, but it was impossible to introduce a controversial Bill on such a basis in the middle of a great war.

Nationalists Leave the House.

Later.
Following a request to express an opinion on Mr. Asquith's suggestion, Mr. Lloyd George said it was the Nationalists' duty to say whether they meant to oppose a measure embodying the Government's offer.

In a response to an appeal by Mr. Redmond not to participate in a futile discussion, but to consult him as to future action, the Nationalists, who had adopted a markedly hostile attitude, during the Premier's speech, left the House.

(Continued on page 2)

DR. WU'S RESIGNATION.

The Text of His Letter.

After the receipt of the letter of resignation submitted by Dr. Wu Ting-fang, the President and the Prime Minister conferred together with a view to finding a successor to the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs. The resignation will not be accepted until a successor is found.
A current report states that Mr. Lu Cheng-shiang, formerly Secretary of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, will be given the portfolio of Foreign Affairs again, with Mr. C. C. Wu, the brilliant son of Dr. Wu Ting-fang, as his Vice-Minister. Below we give a translation of the letter of resignation of Dr. Wu which sets forth the reason of his resignation, which is necessitated solely by his great age. The following is the translation:—

"I hereby beg to tender my letter of resignation because of illness. Through your distinguished patronage, I, Ting-fang, was appointed to my office from a retired life. I firmly believed that being a man of the age of more than sixty, I could not support the burden of a substantive office. But consideration of the importance of foreign affairs and of the fact that the headship of the Foreign Office had been vacant for a considerable time, under pressure of a sense of duty and public opinion, I reluctantly gave up my life of retirement to shoulder the burdens of an important Office.

"I therefore distinctly stated that I would take up the office for a period of a few months only in the hope of tidying up the critical time, and that as soon as the tension of the political situation began to ease a little I should vacate the office in favour of some better qualified person.

"Unfortunately, things have turned out against my wishes, and not long after my assumption of office, I caught a severe cold and began to be troubled with deafness. At first, I hoped for an immediate recovery so that I could still be of service.

"Although my health has recently improved, yet my spirit is not yet fully recovered. And, furthermore, with two ears dull to hear, there are all kinds of inconveniences in dealing with diplomatic affairs. At this critical time of diplomatic relations, when a minute passed would mean a thousand miles lost and when things are pressing so hard, I, with the difficulty of deafness, feel reluctant to incur the charge of lingering in my office or even of imitating the unwelcome example of persons who 'sacrifice their lives for the sake of their name.' Being a man of honest and straightforward nature, I do not always know what to avoid or what to take up. Under the present circumstances, I can only respectfully request the true facts to the Great President and humbly request His Excellency to grant me his permission to resign my present office, so that I may be able to follow the life I originally planned to live. I beg respectfully to submit this letter for the esteemed perusal of the President and hope that an order will be issued for me to observe."—Peking Daily News.

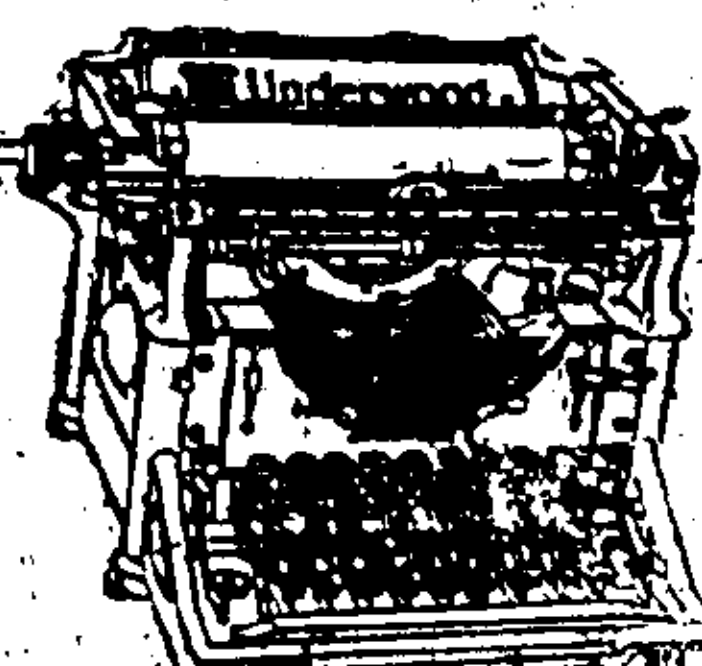
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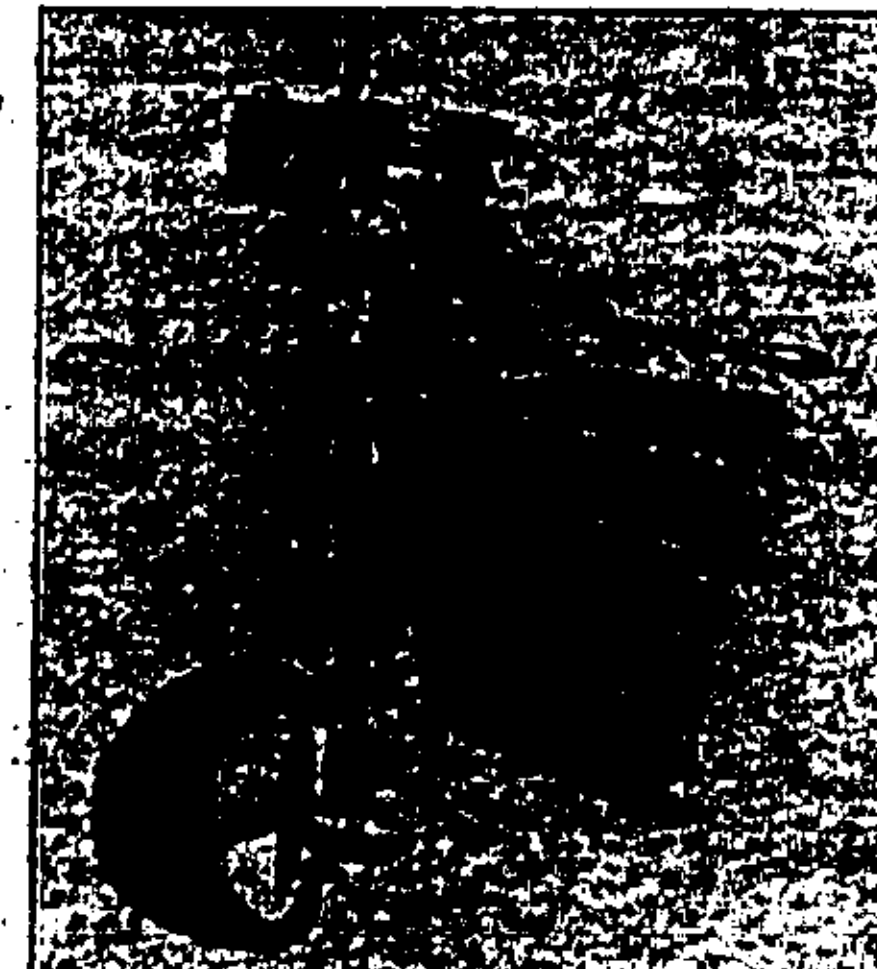
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GENERAL NEWS.

China's Envoy to Japan.
Mr. Wang Ta-hai is will be appointed Special Envoy to Japan in the place of Mr. Hsiang Hsiang, as the Government has selected Mr. Hsiang for the post of Chief Judge of the Administrative Court. Mr. Wang is now making preparations for the mission. The Mandate announcing his appointment will be issued within the next few days. He will leave for Japan as soon as the Mandate is issued.Prussic Acid Shells.
Paris, January 9.—The Zurich correspondent of *Le Journal* repeats a rumour according to which the German army is preparing to use new weapons, notably special poison gas shells, including prussic acid shells. It is thought that these rumours are not altogether devoid of foundation, because the Swiss military authorities have asked the well-known chemist, Dr. Brunner, a captain in the Swiss army, to make a report upon the effect of these shells, and the means of protection to be adopted against them.The Pirates.
A private letter from a town "somewhere on the English Wash" brings home very plainly to the understanding that the crews of the Hun submarines are as much pirates, and nothing else, as the ruffians who sailed under the Jolly Roger. They pretend that they have not time to observe the laws of honourable warfare or even of humanity but they have leisure to "ride, rob, and plunder." Unfortunately the complete story cannot be told but a merchant ship of one of our Allies was torpedoed and its crew sent adrift. They were brought into this town, and later on they learned that though a huge hole had been torn in the side of their ship the nature of its cargo kept it afloat, and it came to land in a creek along the coast. When the captain went to examine his vessel he found the Huns had systematically stripped it of everything of the slightest value.—*Exchange*.The New Chinese Coins.
"The New Subsidiary Coins" was the subject of a current comment in a recent issue of the *Eastern Times* of Shanghai. The writer questions the popularity of these coins with the merchants and the general community. The new subsidiary coins are based on the decimal system. Every big dollar can be exchanged for 10 silver dimes, or vice versa. But the authorities forgot to take into their consideration that according to the present market value a big dollar can be exchanged for 11 silver dimes and several copper cents or it can be exchanged for more than 130 copper coins. The writer concludes that it is doubtful whether the merchants will accept the new coins except at current exchange rates.Nationalising Electric Resources.
A Bill has been introduced into the French Chamber which proposes the nationalisation of the hydro-electric resources. It is estimated by a committee which investigated the subject a few years ago that the water power capable of being utilised in France represents 5,850,000 h.p., of which only a small percentage has yet been harnessed for the purpose of industry, although a considerable forward movement has been made for the purposes of the war. The bill which has been introduced suggests the classification of the existing powers into two groups, those under 500 k.w., which have no surplus current to sell, the other group being those possessing powers from 500 to 10,000 k.w. The smaller works would, if the bill becomes law, be carried on more or less as private enterprises, subject, however, to State sanction and participation in profits, but in connection with the large undertakings, the State would be directly represented on the administration. The belief is expressed that under a proper system of State control and assistance another 500,000 h.p. would be developed at an early date.—*Exchange*.

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GENERAL NEWS.

The Price of Paper.
The Japan Paper Manufacturing Association has decided to raise the prices by five rin to one sen from March. This advance is limited to foreign paper alone.

A New Iron Mine.
Preparations are being completed for the opening of a new iron mine in close proximity to the Yangtze about thirty miles above Wuhu by a joint Sino-Japanese company, the capital being advanced by the Japanese on the understanding that the output of ore will be sold to Japan at a fixed price. A pilot from here was recently sent up to survey the river and sound with a view to constructing wharves in the river for the shipment of the ore.

Shanghai-Kiebang Case.
Messrs. Hugo Reiss & Co., of Shanghai have received a telegram from Messrs. Barker & Co., Penang, advising them that in the appeal case for the redemption of the debentures of the Shanghai-Kiebang Rubber Estate Ltd. (in liquidation) the judgment of the Court in Penang was unanimously in the company's favour with costs. Stay of execution was granted pending defendant's decision to appeal to the Privy Council, London.

Tsingtao after the War.
The Hoochi has the following:—When in Tokyo recently, General Otani, Governor of Tsingtao, took into consideration, together with Count Terauchi, Viscount Motono, General Oshima, and Mr. Hayashi, the momentous question as to the disposal of Tsingtao and German-owned concessions in Shantung after the restoration of peace. Thus, the legal questions about the Kichingling iron mine, Fangtee Shang and Poshang Collieries are now all settled, culminating in the establishment of the Shantung Economic Commission, the chairman of which is General Otani himself. This commission will co-operate with the Military Enquiry Commission established in the Army Department for investigating the natural resources of the province.

Passengers Who Gave Wrong Names.

At Glasgow Sheriff Court recently a Canadian lieutenant and his wife were charged with having given false names on arriving in Glasgow harbour from Canada. It was stated that the couple had made a runaway marriage in defiance of the wishes of the wife's parents. Their honeymoon was spent on the Atlantic and ended in the bridegroom being imprisoned in Glasgow for eight days while the authorities inquired as to his military status. Both parties were said to belong to well-known Canadian families. The Sheriff said that the action of the accused was one of those romantic silly things people did when at the romantic stage, but these were not times when sentimental considerations could be allowed to count. Giving false names to the Aliens Officers was a serious matter. The husband would be fined £20 and the wife admonished.

Sir J. Beecham's £1,000,000.
The late Sir Joseph Beecham's estate has been valued for probate at £1,000,000. The will is dated September 28, 1916, and provides:—The entire business of patent medicine manufacture carried on at St. Helens, Lancs., he left to the trustees in trust to form a private limited company with a capital of £50,000 in £1 shares, out of which he gave to each of his sons, Sir Thomas Beecham and Henry Beecham, 400 of every 1,000 shares issued. 20 each to his daughters Josephine, Edith and Amy, and others to six employees. Sir Joseph directed the executors to fulfil his covenant to pay to his wife £2,500 a year. To his daughter Elsie he gave an annuity of £250; to his brother William an annuity of £500; £100 to his co-heir, Thomas Oldham and a year's wages to each of his servants at Hutton, St. Helens, or Hampstead, who have been in his employ not less than ten years. The residuary estate is to be divided into four parts, one of which is to be held in trust for each of his daughters.

NOTICES.

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For the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation,
N. J. STABB,
Chief Manager,
Hongkong, 5th March, 1917.

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Hongkong 15th September, 1915.

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"	20	.75
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Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

Cable Address: Telegraph, Hongkong.

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The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1917.

REAL SACRIFICES AND NEEDLESS BURDENS.

It has been made plainly evident from the telegrams which have come to hand of late that our relatives and friends in the Old Country are now beginning to feel the effects of the war much more sharply and keenly than they have hitherto done, and letters from Home more fully reveal the sacrifices which are being made. Apart from the actual calling up of men for service with the colours, with all the breaking up of homes and the closing down of businesses which that means, the people who are left are having the fact brought home to them, in a thousand and one ways, that the nation and the Empire are engaged in a life and death struggle, which calls for the exercise of great patience and the bearing of heavy burdens. The food restrictions which have already been brought into force are stringent in their character, but, when we are told that a scheme for placing the whole country on rations is ready to be put into operation should the necessity for such a step arise, we may look to the probable imposition of even greater hardships in the future. But, through it all, it is a common experience to receive letters from Home breathing a wonderful cheeriness, and telling of the noble manner in which all classes are willingly shouldering their burdens, in the comforting knowledge that they are helping to win the war, and thus to secure, for those who come after, all the privileges which a deep and lasting peace will bring in its train. The old spirit of the nation remains unquenched, and will so remain to the end.

While it is true that we in Hongkong have, in spite of all we hear, no true conception of the conditions which prevail at Home, and ought every day of our lives to count ourselves blessed that we live amid such comfortable surroundings, that is not to say that we have not our own little problems caused by, or at any rate rising out of, the war. If we have any regard for the truth, we shall readily confess that, as yet, few, if indeed any of us, have suffered one real discomfort because of the prevailing state of war. The sacrifices that have been made are practically negligible. Life runs along the usual smooth and easy lines for most of us still. But there is one respect in which the community as a whole is suffering, and that is through the rapacity of shopkeepers, particularly of the commerce class. We should imagine that no-one worthy of the name of a Britisher would object for one moment to bearing a genuine war burden—we are very rightly to be further taxed for war purposes in the near future—but ratepayers have a well-founded grievance when they complain at being called upon to pay excessive prices for certain commodities, the supply of which has been in no respect whatsoever affected by the war. And that is what is happening to-day. For imported necessities—coal and the like—we expect to pay more, though the public has no guarantee that even here the increased prices are merely those justified by higher freight and other charges. But when dealers are constantly putting up the prices of produce which is raised locally, as they are—and this in spite of the abnormally high dollar—there is every justification for the query: "Where is the Food Committee?"

Even if there had been no increase in the retail prices of everyday necessities, the very fact that the dollar has risen so high should suffice to awaken the Committee to a sense of its responsibilities to the consuming public. But that body prefers to continue its peaceful slumbers, utterly oblivious to what is happening, and the proclamation empowering the fixing of maximum prices on foodstuffs is still allowed to remain a dead letter. The public does not resent paying more for its food if the enhanced charges are perfectly bona fide increases, but it does strongly protest against being fleeced as it now is. The Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council are repeatedly supposed to represent the public. Then why does not one of their number raise this important and urgent question before the evil becomes intensified to an even greater degree?

That Canton Telegram.

The Chinese British subjects of Hongkong will have read with intense amusement the message, appearing in our issue of yesterday, which is alleged to have been sent to Peking by certain members of the Kwangtung Provincial Council. Two local Chinese merchants have already made the same remark to us thereon:—"Obviously dictated by Germans." We regret that we have not yet been able to discover the names or the number of the signatories, and we should learn with gratification that the influential Chinese of Hongkong had made it their business to insist on these being disclosed. Many of our merchants can pull practically any string in Canton that they may desire to pull, and it is clearly their duty to help the Allies in bringing home to its source any case of German intimidation. There are still (we speak under correction) some thirty or forty Huns in or about Canton—and, being Huns, they are naturally first-class bullies, who know how to terrorise the weak and the timorous. "China has no men-of-war, no arms and ammunition. She cannot take an active part with the Entente Powers in the war, but she will endanger her own existence." If this argument were a pukka Chinese one, we should be forced to assume that it came from men far too ignorant of politics to deserve a seat on the Council of the Province, and that the sooner they made way for wiser men the better would it be for Kwangtung's welfare. But it goes without saying that there are no Chinese, among those coming in constant contact with foreigners, who are so ill informed as to put forward a memorandum like the present one, of their own initiative. The Hongkong merchants can render invaluable service to their Government by uniting to lay the real truth before the people of Canton, to expose German tactics and, as far as possible, to make their voices effectually heard in Peking as well.

Germany and Mexico.

Reuter stated this morning that the discovery of the Mexican plot "has occasioned considerable heart-searching in Germany." This we have no difficulty in believing. The heart-searching is probably being undertaken by two classes of persons: the tiny remnant of the population that still endeavours to retain some amount of respect for itself and its country; and the schemers who were responsible for the conspiracy. There must still be a number of persons in Germany who have hitherto honestly believed that their soldiers were fighting in a just cause. If they are now allowed to know one fifth part of the despicable trickeries in which some of the most prominent of their countrymen have been engaged, what must they think of their Kaiser and his "cause"? And what must the rulers of Germany be thinking? The hardest blow you can deal at a second hand is to unmask him in presence of those whose veneration he longs to keep. The discovery of the Mexican plot robs all past sympathisers with the German Government of the last vestige of their former regard for the conspirators—and these must naturally be overjoyed in consequence. Herr Zimmermann stands confessed to the world not only as a rogue (that would probably not worry him) but as a bungler of the first water. Never in history has there been another case of a whole country's being obsessed with the conspiracy ideas without the wit to achieve anything in the shape of a conspicuous success. As fast as the lies were told, so fast have they been exposed. Every German plot—and these have ranged from Mexico to India, from Hongkong to Ireland, and from Canada to Australia—has been practically a rank failure. It is only natural to most of us to entertain a sneaking respect for the really clever knave whose schemes are entirely successful; but what sort of feelings do we bear towards the rogue who is nothing but a blunderer? The Germans had much better have left "politics" and war alone and have stuck to their traditional barbering and table-waiting.

DAY BY DAY.

THE MAN WITH ONE IDEA IS SOMETIMES A BORE. SOMETIMES AN INSPIRATION. IT DEPENDS ON THE MAN AND THE IDEA.

The Dollar.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 4 1/2d.

To-morrow's Anniversary. To-morrow is the 5th anniversary of the inauguration of the late Yuan Shih-k'ai as President of the Chinese Republic.

A Woman and Opium. For being found in possession of opium at the Kowloon Railway Station, a woman was fined \$500, or three months' imprisonment to-day.

Imported Opium. For bringing into the Colony on board the s.s. On Lee, 10 tals of opium, a Chinese was fined \$750 by Mr. J. R. Wood at the Police Court this morning, or three months' hard labour.

No School Register. A Chinese school-master was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with failing to keep a register, he having ten scholars in his school. Mr. A. R. Cavalier, Inspector of Chinese Schools, spoke to visiting the premises and finding the boys there. The defendant said he only had nine scholars, because one of the boys only came to learn writing. He was fined \$10.

Stolen from Empress Boat. A Chinese was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Police Court this morning, with stealing an electric light guard from the Empress of Asia. Mr. J. Barlow, quartermaster of the ship, gave evidence, and said that he saw the defendant leaving the ship with a parcel, and, on stopping the man and opening the parcel, the stolen guard was found. He was sentenced to three months' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

A Street Fight. Two men were charged before Mr. C. D. Melbourne, at the Police Court this morning, with fighting in the street. It was stated that it was a slight dispute, but the laking produced an old knife, as large as a chopper, and said one of men had this in his possession when arrested. Inspector Davitt said the knife was not used, or the case would have been a more serious one. His Worship fined each man \$1, and bound them over in \$25 to keep the peace for three months.

War Comforts. "Our Little Bit" Society, Kowloon, has forwarded its usual fortnightly parcel of comforts for the soldiers to Mrs. Eden, Jackanapee Work Society, 94, Marlborough Mansions, West Hampstead, through the courtesy of Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Company, consisting of the following:—2,052 rolled bandages, 1,000 swabs, 190 flannel many-tailed bandages, 84 eye bandages, 78 caps, 224 milk covers, 30 pairs socks, 1 pair mittens, 107 pairs pyjamas, 2 cases dry ginger, 1 box tea.

Stolen Umbrellas. Two men arrived in the Colony from the country by the s.s. Honam last night, and, whilst they were sleeping on deck this morning, they were awakened by a district watchman, who had seen another man taking away two umbrellas which had been lying by the sleeper. When arrested, the man said he was looking for his own umbrella, and did not want to steal any other. At the Police Court this morning, Mr. C. D. Melbourne sentenced the man to seven days' hard labour.

Got More Than Her Money. Appearing in Court, with what was described as "a lovely black eye," a woman to-day summoned a gardener of Nathan Road, Kowloon, for assault. Mr. Leo D'Almeida appeared for complainant, and stated that she had lent the man some money just before the Chinese New Year, and when she asked for it back, he gave it, but at the same time struck her a severe blow in the eye. His Worship described the affair as a cowardly assault and ordered defendant to pay a fine of \$2, in addition to \$3 compensation.

SATURDAY'S CONCERT.

Farewell Entertainment to the Hongkong Volunteer Contingent.

This has now been definitely arranged for Saturday, March 10. The dinner will be held at the Hongkong Hotel at 7.30 p.m. The variety entertainment will be given in the Theatre Royal, commencing at 9.30 p.m., by arrangement with the Bandmann Opera Company, who have kindly consented to assist in the programme.

It is impossible to accommodate at the dinner all those who desire to be hosts, and it has therefore been arranged that the choice shall rest with the guests, who have each been asked to name one. These chosen hosts will be notified by letter. The remaining hosts will receive their guests in the theatre; tickets of admission thereto will be sent. Seating accommodation at tables will be in the stalls. Smoking will be permitted. The programme will be announced later. Those who have not already signed the lists circulated, and who wish to be hosts, are requested to send their names to the Hon. Secretary, Farewell Entertainment, c/o Hongkong Club.

If by any mischance any members of the community who are leaving for the Front have not received their invitation, will they kindly communicate with the Hon. Secretary as above?

CHINA AND THE ALLIES.

The Boxer Indemnity Question.

Dated March 2, the weekly market report of Messrs. Albert and Co., Ltd., make the following comment which is of special interest just at this time:—

The interesting news from Peking that China has been officially notified by the Allied Ministers that in the event of China effectively severing relations with Germany and Austria-Hungary, the Allies are prepared to consider favourably the questions of the suspension, during the war, of the Boxer Indemnity payments and the revision of the tariff, is one of considerable moment for China's trade.

Towards the end of 1914 we wrote in our circular that "the main cause underlying the present trade depression, is undoubtedly the disorganisation of China's export trade owing to the state of Europe. The export trade is China's ewe lamb, and with an adverse trade of a hundred and forty million taels annually (taking an average of the last ten years), a large amount to be met annually in interest on foreign loans, together with the quarterly indemnity payments for her 'Boxer' indiscretions, she cannot afford to have her ewe lamb injured, although she herself makes no appreciable attempt to foster it."

During 1914, China's adverse trade balance was Tls. 213,014,753, but in 1915, owing to increased export and decreased imports it fell to Tls. 35,614,555. Meantime, the import demand has not improved, and the reason is not far to seek, for in addition to the large sums of money the recent political upheavals have taxed the country with the commencement of two large principal repayments against the Boxer Indemnity (late from 1915 onwards). From that year Tls. 6,000,000 annually commences against a redemption of Tls. 150,000,000 and in 1916, a further annual Tls. 2,000,000 against a redemption of Tls. 50,000,000.

In all, China's Boxer Indemnity of 1901, which was originally Tls. 450,000,000 stands at the end of 1916 at the huge sum of Tls. 388,000,000 still to be worked off. Taken in conjunction with her other foreign loans and liabilities, her annual out-goings in interest and redemptions in 1914, stood at about £2,500,000 at exchange 3s., to which has to be added the above-mentioned indemnity redemptions commencing in 1915 and 1916. When in addition to this, the adverse trade balance of the country is taken into consideration, it is not to be wondered at that China's import trade is not an expanding one.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The opinions expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

FOOTBALL REFEREES.

(To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

Sir,—A lot has been written in the local Press this season about the bad sportsmanship of players and spectators at football matches, and my reason for asking you to publish this letter, is to try and prove that, while there is no excuse for ungentlemanly conduct, both players and spectators have had a serious grievance. My complaint is that the referees are unfair and inefficient. Take the case of the gentleman who is usually looked upon as the best referee in the Colony, viz. Mr. Wright, who is also, I believe a prominent football official. Yesterday, a case of "hands" occurred in the R. E. penalty area. Almost any impartial referee would have awarded a penalty to the opposing team, but not so Mr. Wright. He ignored the infringement entirely, but shortly afterwards, when Machin handled quite unintentionally, he blew his whistle lustily. I witnessed a match between the R.G.A. and R.E., during which Scott fouled the R.G.A. centre-half in a particularly cowardly manner, but, as far as could be seen, Mr. Wright, who was the referee did not even caution the offender. In the same match, Blumfield deliberately handled the ball in the penalty area, with the referee only a few yards off, looking in his direction, but no penalty was forthcoming. Then in the "D" Company v. S. China match, Mr. Wright was again referee. It is common knowledge now, that a Shropshire struck the first blow, but the referee actually ordered one of the opposing players off the field, and ignored the original offender. Again, on one occasion when the K.S.L.I. and R.G.A. were playing, Mr. Wright blew his whistle just previous to the Shropshires scoring, apparently for off-side. He went back on his first decision, however, and awarded a goal, but when the gunners complained, and some threatened to leave the field, he again changed his mind and bounced the ball near the goal. These are matches that I actually witnessed. I dare say other spectators could unfold tales equally as curious.

What would racing enthusiasts say, if the judge gave the verdict to the wrong horse; or tennis players, if the referee did not know a fault when he saw one; or cricketers, if the umpire ignored wides, no-balls &c. and gave the wrong man out occasionally? Surely in the whole of Hongkong, half a dozen gentlemen can be found with a knowledge of the game, young enough and public spirited enough, to help on a fine sport by offering their services as referees. If something is not done before next season, it appears highly probable that football in Hongkong will degenerate into a discreditable farce.

Apologising for taking up so much of your space.

Yours etc.,

SPECTATOR.

Hongkong, March 9, 1917.

[The referee who succeeds in pleasing everybody has yet to be born. We presume that all referees have to pass a thorough examination before being officially empowered to take charge of League matches.—Ed. H.K.T.]

MEN GOING TO THE FRONT.

Sir,—May I beg the hospitality of your columns to invite the men going to the Front to, if possible, attend one or other of the numerous places of worship on Sunday next in order to commend to God themselves and the righteous cause wherein their King and Country send them? Most of us believe that we dare not dispense with the blessing of Almighty God, and that in life or in death it will be given to those who sincerely seek it. I hope also that members of the various churches will assemble in large numbers to join their prayers with those of the brave men who jeopardise their lives in order to defend us and our children against a mighty and unscrupulous foe.

Yours etc.,

G. H. VICTORIA.

Hongkong, March 8, 1917.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

The Duke of Atholl, whose death is announced, for long kept an armed bodyguard at his seat, Blair Atholl, says the *Manchester Guardian*. Strictly speaking, this was in defiance of the British Constitution, but when Queen Victoria once visited the Castle she gave, at all events, an implied sanction to the Duke's little "army" by presenting it with a set of colours. It was composed of some 250 Highland giants—averaging six feet in height,—and most of the men are now serving at the front. It has been the privilege of the holder of the title for centuries to keep this private army. The men are tenants and retainers of the Duke, and in an earlier day they were armed with Lochaber axes and claymores. In later days they were given rifles of the newest pattern, and in their Highland dress were regularly drilled and at intervals reviewed by the aged Duke.

The many Lancashire people who know the Isle of Man should be interested in the Atholl family, for the island once belonged to it, and it was not until 1765 that the Manx sovereignty (with some reservations) was purchased by the Government for £70,000. The island came to them from the Derby family, passing on the death of the tenth Earl of Derby to the second Duke of Atholl, whose grandmother was a Stanley. It was this Duke's only surviving child, Lady Charlotte Murray, who became Baroness Strange and ruler of the island. She married her cousin the third Duke of Atholl, and with his approval made the £70,000 deal with the Government. The fourth Duke, however, went one better, for he disposed of the remainder of the family rights to the Crown for £400,000.

The Bank of England, now exceedingly busy with the War Loan, is not, as many think, a Government institution, says the *Manchester Guardian*. It is a private company, but reaps a good profit by acting as the nation's banker. The remuneration paid to the Bank of England for the management of the National Debt was fixed in 1903 as a yearly sum at the rate of £325 per million pounds of such debt up to five hundred million, and at the rate of £100 for every million pounds above this amount. On this basis, assuming a total war loan of £2,500,000,000, the Bank's remuneration will work out at about £250,000 annually, to say nothing of the income they receive for managing the old National Debt, which on the outbreak of the present war was something like six hundred and fifty million pounds.

Before any of the money that is now pouring into the Bank of England can be spent, a certain procedure has to be followed. First of all, an order signed by the King and countersigned by the Lords of the Treasury has to be forwarded to the Controller and Auditor-General of the Exchequer and Audit Department. Thereupon the Controller hands an order to the Treasury authorising the Bank of England to debit the Exchequer Account and credit the account of the Paymaster-General, who makes all payments on behalf of the various Departments. Afterwards the Controller scrutinises all the accounts paid to see that the money has been spent in accordance with the wishes of Parliament. Controller (Sir H. J. Gibson, K.C.B.) can be dismissed only upon petition from both Houses of Parliament addressed to the Crown.

Patriotism deserves to be repaid with patriotism, the Gloucester hairdresser who displays the following notice will surely be rewarded with an increase of custom after the war: "This shop is closed owing to the proprietor having gone on military service. It will re-open within six months of the termination of hostilities, if he returns safe and sound, when your patronage will be welcomed."

COMPANY MEETING.

The Union Waterboat Co., Ltd.

(VENBATIM.)

An extraordinary general meeting of the Union Waterboat Company, Limited, was held at the offices of Messrs. Dodwell and Company this morning Mr. S. H. Dodwell presided, and there were also present:—Messrs. R. Shewan, B. Mori, J. Jonckheer, A. O. Lang and A. H. Skelton (Consulting Committee). Morton Smith, (Secretary), G. E. Edwards, and T. O. Nixon (shareholders).

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, as it is past the hour for which this meeting is called, and as there is a quorum present I will ask the Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

The Secretary having read the notice, The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, as intimated to you in my speech at the last general meeting, your General Managers and Consulting Committee consider that the capital of the Company is in excess of what is required for the proper conduct of the business, and they recommend a return to shareholders of \$3 per share. This extraordinary meeting has been called to pass the necessary resolutions for this reduction of the capital. I therefore beg to propose:—

"(1) That the issued Capital of the Company be Reduced from \$277,230 (Two Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand Two hundred and Thirty Dollars) Divided into 27,723 (Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty-Three) Shares of \$10 (Ten Dollars) each, to \$104,061 (One Hundred and Ninety-Four Thousand and Sixty-One Dollars) Divided into 27,723 (Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty-Three) Shares of \$7 (Seven Dollars) each, and that such Reduction be effected by Returning (on such date as the Company's General Managers shall appoint) to the holders of the 27,723 (Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty-Three) Shares that have been issued paid up Capital to the extent of \$3 (Three Dollars) per Share and by Reducing the nominal amount of each of the said Shares from \$10 (Ten Dollars) to \$7 (Seven Dollars)."

"(2) That application be made to the Supreme Court of Hongkong to confirm the Reduction of the Capital of the Company in conformity with the foregoing Resolution."

After the resolution has been seconded I shall be pleased to answer any questions shareholders may wish to put.

Mr. Shewan:—I beg to second the resolution.

The Chairman:—There being no questions, gentlemen, I beg to put the resolution to the meeting. Those in favour please signify in the usual way. Those against? Those resolutions are carried unanimously. That is all the business, gentlemen; thank you. No ice of the second extraordinary general meeting will be advertised in due course.

POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

Orders issued to-day by Mr. F. C. Jenkin, D.S.P. (Reserve), state:—

Police School, 5.30 p.m.
Monday, March 12.—All Crown Sergeants and Sergeants of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies.

Wednesday, March 14.—All Chief Inspectors, Staff Inspectors Arculli and Potter, All Inspectors, and Staff Sergeants Fisher and Bales.

Friday, March 16.—All Crown Sergeants and Sergeants of Nos. 3 and 4 Companies, Mounted Police, Maxim Gunners, and Ambulance Platoon.

Strength.
Chief Inspector C. F. Mason is granted leave for the purpose of proceeding to the Front.

Examination of Rifles.
All Winchester and Martini are to be returned to the Armoury on Tuesday, March 13, between 5.15 and 6 p.m.

Transfer.
P.O. 739 Edwards is transferred from No. 1 Section to Buglers and Drummers, subject to performing Patrol duties for March.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL.

Presentation of League Trophies.

The end of the schools football season in the Colony has arrived, much to the regret of followers of the game, and yesterday, on the Queen's College ground, Causeway Bay, the presentation of trophies was made to the successful teams by the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. Choult Severn, O.M.G. In each division of the League St. Joseph's College are the winners, the runners-up in the Senior being St. Stephen's College, and in the Junior, Queen's College 2nd eleven. An exhibition match was played by a team from St. Joseph's and another from The Rest. Notwithstanding that the game was very even and some good football was played by the College, The Rest won by one goal to nil. Mr. Ralston was the referee. It was after the game that Mr. Severn presented the trophies. The Secretary of the Schools Football League, Mr. F. A. Britton, expressed thanks to the Colonial Secretary for attending to distribute the prizes and medals. He said Mr. Severn had kindly come at great inconvenience. St. Joseph's first had been unbeaten in the League, obtaining 15 out of a possible 16 points, (Applause), the only team to draw with them being St. Stephen's the runners up to the senior league. In the junior league the second eleven obtained 13 points, out of a possible 20, having drawn with Yau-mat. The runners up were the Queen's College second team. St. Joseph's had a well balanced team, and had been fortunate in keeping it intact throughout the season. They were to be congratulated and in so doing he would like to congratulate the Sports' Master, Brother Alphonsus (Applause). In conclusion he thanked Queen's College for the use of their grounds, and Mr. Ralston for refereeing and for his valuable assistance in the arrangement of the ground; also the players who represented The Rest for going there and playing, and, on behalf of the league, for their selection. He invited the Colonial Secretary to present the trophies.

The Hon. Mr. Severn then handed the shield to the captain of the first team and the cup to the captain of the second team, all of the players receiving medals. The teams were:—First:—Chau Wan (Captain), Tung Hoi, B. M. Omar, Tin Yek on, S. A. M. Sepher, J. Silver, Chan Fok Yue, William Michael, F. Lison, Vabois.

Second:—Ying Kwong (Cap. tain), Peter Go, Duncan Urquhart, Go Koo Cheng, On Ching Kay, J. Ceromiras, B. Siqueira, S. Loman, G. Millar, E. Souza, B. A. Hyder. Addressing the players, Mr. Severn congratulated the first team on having won the contest for the senior league. They had not lost a single game, which was a very fine result. He was sure that Brother Aimar must be very gratified at the result of the season's football. He noticed, however, that there were one or two sturdy competitors coming on so that perhaps next season they would not have it all their own way—one or two dark horses. He thought he must go and see some of these contests next year, for he foresaw a very strenuous season.

Turning to the second team Mr. Severn congratulated them. He saw they had done the same as the first team in not losing a single match, although they played 10 matches. That was very satisfactory, but their nearest competitors, Queen's College and Yau-mat, were both closer than the competitors in the senior league. They had had a most successful season.

Brother Aimar thanked Mr. Severn, and cheers were given for him and for St. Joseph's College.

CRICKET.

Civil Service v. R.E.

The following will represent the Civil Service Club at home on Saturday next at 2 o'clock:—Hon. Mr. O. Severn, O.M.G. (Captain), R. E. O. Bird, E. W. Hamilton, S. E. Marley, R. A. B. Ponsonby, Fane, R. O. W. Nicholl, R. G. Southerton, D. Goodall, B. W. Bradbury, C. J. Tacchi, F. J. Ling, Umpire, W. H. Woolley; scorer, W. Fisher.

AN ALLEGED MURDER.

Arrested After Nearly Two Years.

At the Magistracy, this morning, a Chinese was brought up by Chief Detective Inspector Marston, charged with murder.

It is alleged against him that on June 18, 1915, at 25A Eastern Street he stabbed his concubine to death. He was only arrested yesterday.

A week's remand was ordered.

JUST ONE AFTER DINNER

will prevent that uncomfortable heavy feeling and aid digestion. Two taken at bed-time dispel Constipation as gently as nature next morning.

PINKETTES

cure Biliousness, Sick Headaches, Liveriness, clear the complexion and sweeten the breath. Of all chemists, or post free for 60 cents the phial, from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., 98 Szechuen Road, Shanghai.

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NOTICE.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

A MEETING will be held on MONDAY next, the 12th inst. at 5.15 p.m. in the CITY HALL to consider the best method of celebrating "St. George's Day" with a view to raising further funds for British War Charities. All interested are earnestly invited to attend.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENT.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTY-NINTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents, Pedder's Street, on FRIDAY the 30th instant, at NOON, for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1916. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 16th to 30th March, both days inclusive.

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2nd Officer, Wages ...£31.00
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For Steamer going home.
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NEW DRESS MATERIALS, etc., etc.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

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THE SECOND AND FINAL EPISODE OF

THE TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS.

The film version of the immortal melodrama adapted by Geo. R. SIMS and ARTHUR SHIRLEY.

SECOND EPISODE:

"FANFAN and CLAUDINET."

"THE GREAT WAR 1914-17."

Depicting incidents of the front of Somme, Verdun and Salonika.

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Coloured Film of Nature Series.

AND COMICS.

COMING SOON:

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SPECTACULAR AND WONDERFUL DISPLAY.

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WANTED.

WANTED—A Japanese gentleman is willing to give LESSONS in JAPANESE FREE in exchange for Lessons in English. Apply "T." c/o "Hongkong Telegraph."

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—A H. P. "Wolf" Jap MOTORCYCLE and SIDE-CAR—in perfect condition, including Lamp, Horn and Spare Tyre. Apply A.B.C. c/o "Hongkong Telegraph."

YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF

If you know any one who suffers, if you suffer yourself in the relentless grip of rheumatism, if your joints are stiff or swollen, your muscles weakened, or your limbs drawn out of shape, if you suffer from headache, neuralgia, sciatica or other bodily tortures, it is within your power to cure yourself or your friends.

No need to employ expensive remedies or hire exorbitant physicians. LITTLE'S ORIENTAL BALM makes any man or woman his or her own physician. It gives instant relief to all rheumatic trouble, neuralgia, headache, sciatica and other bodily pains and aches. A bottle should always be kept at hand. Sold at Rs. 1 per bottle. Of all chemists and medicine vendors throughout India. Agents for Hongkong, Messrs. A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.

TENNIS SHOES.

White Canvas

with Red

Rubber Soles.

\$7.50



White Buckskin

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Heavy Knit White Wool or Merino, From \$1.25 per pair.

EVERY REQUISITE FOR TENNIS WEAR IN STOCK.

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Will despatch VESSELS to the Undermentioned PORTS on or about the DATES named:—

For	Steamers	To Sail On	Remarks
LONDON & Bombay via Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Port Said and Marseilles.....			Connecting at Colombo with Australian Mail Steamer.
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WIRELESS ON ALL STEAMERS. Return tickets at a fare-and-a-half available to Europe for two years, or Intermediate Ports for six months. Round-the-world and through tickets to New York, at Special Rates.

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P. & O. S. N. Co.'s office,
Hongkong, Jan. 2, 1917.

E. V. D. Parr,
Superintendent.



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To Canada, United States and Europe via Vancouver in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Hong Kong to Vancouver 17 days.

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and EMPRESS OF ASIA

30,625 tons Displacement, Quadruple Screw, Speed 21 Knots.

Largest and most luxurious ships on the Pacific.

SAILINGS FROM HONG KONG (subject to change)	SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG
EMPRESS OF RUSSIA 15 Mar.	EMPRESS OF RUSSIA 9 May.
Empress of Japan ... 28 Mar.	Empress of Japan ... 23 May.
EMPRESS OF ASIA ... 12 Apr.	EMPRESS OF ASIA ... 6 June.
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Calling at Shanghai, Nagasaki (Inland Sea), Kobe and Yokohama.

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Through Bills of Lading issued via Vancouver in connection with Canadian Pacific Ry. to all Overland Points in Canada and the United States, also to Pacific Coast Points, European ports and West Indies.

For Further information as to rates of Freight and Passage, Sailing Lists, etc. please apply to

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Regular Service Between
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The above steamers have excellent saloon accommodation for passengers and are fitted with all modern conveniences and carry a duly qualified surgeon.

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THE JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

Projected Sailings from Hongkong—
Subject to Alteration

Destination.	Steamers.	Sailing Date
L'DON via Singapore, Malacca, Penang, Colombo, Delagoa Bay, Cape Town, Madeira.....		
VICTORIA, B.C. and SEATTLE via Shanghai, Moji, Kobe, Nagoya & Yokohama	Shidzuoka Maru Capt. Noma. T. 12,500	WED., 28th Mar., at noon.
CUTTIA via S'pore, Fang & Rangoon, BOMBAY via S'pore, Malacca & C'bo.....	Totomi Maru Capt. Kamada T. 8,000	MONDAY, 12th Mar.
MOJI and Kobe.....	Toyora Maru Capt. Shimidzu T. 8,000	SATURDAY, 10th Mar.
SHANGHAI, Kobe and Yokohama	Fushimi Maru Capt. Irizawa T. 21,000	THURS., 15th Mar., at 11 a.m.
NAGASAKI, Kobe and Yokohama	Hirano Maru Capt. H. Fraser T. 16,000	FRI., 23rd Mar., at 11 a.m.
	Nikko Maru Capt. Takeda T. 9,600	FRI., 16th Mar., at 10 a.m.
EASTBOUND NEW YORK LINE VIA PANAMA CANAL. (CARGO ONLY).		
NEW YORK via Manila, San Francisco, Panama and Colon.....		

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Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to change without notice.

Steamer.	Displacement Tons & Speed	Leave Hongkong
Nippon Maru	11,000 - 15 knots	24th Mar.
Shinyo Maru	22,000 - 21 knots	2nd Apr.
Persia Maru	9,000 - 14 knots	16th Apr.
Korea Maru	18,000 - 18 knots	28th Apr.
Siberia Maru	18,000 - 18 knots	12th May.
Tenyo Maru	22,000 - 21 knots	23rd May.

1st class to London G\$348. (£71.10.0), return G\$437.50. (£122).
to San Francisco G\$350. return G\$437.50.

*For this voyage the Persia Maru will call at Honolulu.
Special Rates given to NAVAL & MILITARY, CIVIL SERVANTS, MISSIONARIES etc.
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Passengers may travel by Railway between ports of call in Japan free of charge.

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ALL STEAMERS FITTED WITH WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

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CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

For	Steamers.	To Sail
H'HOW, PHOI & H'PHONGKai-fong	Chenglu	10th Mar. at 10 a.m.
SWATOW/BANGKOK	Yingchow	10th Mar. at 10 a.m.
SHANGHAI	Chen-an	11th Mar. at d'light.
SHANGHAI	Chen-an	13th Mar. at 4 p.m.
MANILA, CEBU & ILOILO	Taming	14th Mar. at noon.
SHANGHAI	Sinkiang	15th Mar. at 4 p.m.
MANILA, CEBU & ILOILO	Tan	21st Mar. at noon.

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MANILA LINE.—Twin Screw Steamers "Chin-hua," "Taming," and "Tan." Excellent Saloon accommodation Amidships; Electric fans fitted; Extra State-rooms on Deck Aft, on "Taming" & "Tan." SHANGHAI LINE—PASSENGERS, MAILS AND CARGO. S.S. "Anhui," "Chen-an," "Sungang," "Yingchow," "Shan-tung," and "Sinkiang," with excellent accommodation, electric light and fans in Saloon and State-rooms, maintain a regular schedule service between Canton, Hongkong and Shanghai, leaving Hongkong for Shanghai direct every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, taking cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. Passengers are landed in Shanghai, avoiding the inconvenience of transshipment at Woosung.

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Hongkong Mar. 9, 1917.

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Regular, Fortnightly Service between
CHINA and JAPAN.

Steamer	From	Expected on or about	Will leave on or about	For
Tijaroem		15th Mar.	22nd Mar.	SHANGHAI
Tijapanas		23rd Mar.		
Tijilwong		22nd Mar.	28th Mar.	KOBE

* Wireless Telegraphy.

The steamers are all fitted throughout with electric light and have accommodation for a limited number of saloon-passengers. All steamers carry a duly qualified surgeon. Cargo taken at through rates to all ports in Netherlands-India and Australia.

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The above Steamers are fitted with Refrigerating Machinery, ensuring a plentiful supply of Ice, Fresh Provisions, etc., and are lighted throughout with Electricity. All State-Rooms have Electric Fans. A duly qualified Doctor and Stewards are carried. All Steamers Fitted with Wireless Telegraphy.

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Regular Service of Fast, High Class Coast Steamers having good accommodation for first Class Passengers, Electric Light and Fans in state-rooms and Saloon and Excellent Cuisine.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW AND RETURN.
(Occupying 9 to 10 days.)

Steamships.	Captain	Leaving.
Hailong...	J. W. Evans	TUES., 13th March, at 11 a.m.
Haitan...	A. E. Hodgins	FRI., 16th March, at 11 a.m.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Blake Pier).

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(Projected Sailings from Hongkong—Subject to Alteration).

For	Steamship	On
MANILA	Loongsang	Sat., 10th Mar. at 3 p.m.
SHANGHAI	Choy-sang	Tues., 13th Mar. at d'light.
HAIPHONG	Loksang	Thurs., 15th Mar. at 7 a.m.
TIENTSIN	Chipshing	Fri., 16th Mar. at 3 p.m.
MANILA	Yuensang	Sat., 17th Mar. at 3 p.m.
HAIPHONG	Taksang	Tues., 20th Mar. at 7 a.m.

CALCUTTA LINE.—Three sailings per month from Hongkong to Calcutta calling at Singapore and Penang.

Returning from Calcutta steamers proceed to Kobe and Moji, frequently calling at Shanghai. These steamers have excellent passenger accommodation, are fitted with Electric Light and carry a fully qualified surgeon.

SHANGHAI LINE.—Sailings approximately every five days between Canton and Shanghai, sometimes calling at Swatow. Steamers on this line have a limited amount of passenger accommodation, and the high rate is on for Porters and Yangtze Port via Shanghai.

Through Bills of Lading are issued to all Northern and Japanese Ports.

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HAIPHONG LINE.—Sailings approximately weekly for passengers and cargo, calling at other when convenient.

BORNEO LINE.—Two sailings per month between Hongkong and Sandakan by steamers having up-to-date accommodation for passengers.

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COMMERCIAL NEWS.

Bank of Chosen.—Subscription for New Shares.

As already reported, the Bank of Chosen has obtained approval of shareholders for the project for increasing its capital by ten million yen. This amount will be divided into 100,000 shares and the general public will be invited to subscribe for 30,000 shares. It is understood that the flotation of these shares will be announced on the 1st prox. and the subscription list opened on the 17th. The payment of the first instalment, one-fourth in amount, will be called for between April 16 and 21. Subscriptions will be received by the branches in Japan, Chosen, and Manchuria of the Bank of Chosen, and the Matsuda Bank in Vladivostok, as well as by the Daiichi Ginko and a few other representative banks in Japan, while several representative brokers in Tokyo and Osaka will act as underwriters. The new shares are very popular, and the lowest premium put up by the Bank will probably stand at 20 yen. Under the circumstances, it is thought that no offer under 24 yen or 25 yen per share will be accepted.

Copper.

As recently mentioned, there has recently been a growing discrepancy between London and New York quotations for copper. It is true that the London market has become somewhat strong, but the New York market has been firmer and has continued advancing rapidly. As a result, an unprecedented large difference was shown at the end of last week, when New York quotations for electrolytic copper stood at 36 cents per lb., or at the exchange rate of 4.76-7-16, £169 per ton, as compared with £147.10s. quoted in London—a difference of £21 in favour of New York quotations, while in normal circumstances the London market is the higher of the two. The discrepancy will become even larger—over £10—when freights and insurance premiums are taken into consideration. This state of things seems to be due to artificial influences at work in both markets, the London market being kept down, and efforts being made to force up prices in New York. Japanese merchants are very closely watching the trend of the two markets. The purchase of copper, for Russia, it is said, has been in the hands of the British Government. According to advices received by Japanese copper merchants, quoted by the "Mainichi," Britain has proposed to take charge of the purchase of copper wanted for war purposes by France also. It is added that the French Government is inclined to acquiesce in the proposal. The object is, of course, to prevent speculators playing off one ally against another to force up the price.—"Japan Chronicle."

Proposed New Russian Loan.

It is reported that the Russian Government has asked for a loan of £200,000 from Japan, which will be raised in a few instalments. It is said that Japanese bankers will shortly undertake the first instalment of about £50,000, negotiations being still proceeding regarding the terms of the issue. In the early stages of the war, supplies bought by Russia from this country were paid for in three ways—in sterling drafts on London, in yen in Japan, or on the rouble basis. Subsequently, however, the value of the rouble rapidly declined, and the exchange now stands at 185 roubles per £100, or about half the normal rate. In view of this heavy decline in the value of the Russian currency, Japanese merchants have stopped transactions on the rouble basis. On the other hand, Russia's reserve of gold specie in London is limited, and it has become very difficult to conclude sterling transactions. Recently almost the whole orders from Russia have been booked on the yen basis. The whole remainder of the funds raised by the previous issues of Russian Treasury Bills and deposited in the Syndicate Banks, however, according to the Japanese papers, was withdrawn yesterday (21st inst.). As there are thus no more funds available for the settlement of accounts, the Russian authorities, it is said, are in a hurry to issue new bonds. In the circumstances it is expected that the issue will be made by the end of March at latest.—"Japan Chronicle."

THE ALEXANDRA CAFE

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TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to The "Telegraph.")

(Continued from Page 1.)

IRISH HOME RULE.

The Debate Adjourned.

London, March 8.

The debate on the Irish question has been adjourned until to-day.

Further Discussion Deprived.

London, March 8.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law said he saw no advantage in resuming yesterday's Irish discussion.

Nationalists Predict More Trouble.

London, March 8.

The Nationalists have issued a manifesto avowing that they can never assent to the previous principle regarding Ulster. They accuse the Premier of a breach of faith and declare that his speech will seriously strengthen the revolutionary movement.

HOME MARKETS.

London, March 6.

The following quotations are given:—2½ Per Cent. Consols, 85½; 3½ Per Cent. War Loan, 85½; 3 Per Cent. Exchequer 1920, 91½; Rupee paper, 44 nominal; Indian 3½ Per Cent. 1931, 83½; Indian 3 Per Cent. 1948, 54½; India Bills, 54½; rubber, 3/3; coconut oil, 266½, 266½, 267-269, 268½, 268½.

CUBAN SUGAR.

London, March 6.

Messrs. Himey's report on Cuban sugar estimates the crop at three million tons.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE GERMAN SCHEMES IN MEXICO.

London, March 6.

The revelation of the German overtures to Mexico has occasioned considerable heart-searching in Germany, and numerous questions thereabout have been asked in the Reichstag.

Herr Zimmermann said that the despatch was sent in secret code, and he was not aware how the Americans had obtained and deciphered it. It was a misfortune that they did, but he was not sorry that the overtures had become known in Japan through their publication in America.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

German Strength Greatly Increased.

London, March 6.

Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters says that the British are now confronted with double the number of German divisions compared to a year ago, including what remains of the flower of the German army.

The Situation Unchanged.

London, March 7.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The situation is unchanged. We silenced batteries shelling Ypres and bombarded trenches to the west of Messines. There was much successful aerial reconnaissance photography and artillery work.

INDIAN COTTON CULTIVATION.

London, March 6.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Chamberlain stated that the whole question of the improvement of cotton cultivation in India was being considered.

RUSSIANS PURSUING THE TURKS.

London, March 7.

A Russian communique states: We took possession of the Asadabad summit and pursued the Turks, who are retreating towards Kangavar. We are fighting the fleeing enemy near Semne, in the direction of Bidjar and are continuing in the direction of Diyarbakir.

BRITISH SHIPPING AND SUBMARINISM.

London, March 7.

The Press Bureau announces that shipping arrivals for the week numbered 2,528 and the sailings 2,477. The vessels sunk of 1,000 tons and upwards numbered 14; under 1,000 nine; unsuccessfully attacked 12; fishing vessels sunk 3.

TRADES OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE.

London, March 7.

The Press Bureau announces that Mr. Neville Chamberlain has issued a list of trades of primary importance in which National Service volunteers may be utilised. It includes mining, metal, shipbuilding, agriculture, transport, engineering, aircraft, textile, chemical, leather, food for home, miscellaneous metal and other trades.

WOMEN WHO HELP TO WIN.

Girl Electricians in a Warship.

Woman as a very important part of the motive power behind the war scene is shown in a remarkable series of photographs which Messrs. Harrods Ltd. are exhibiting by arrangement with the Ministry of Munitions.

A vague idea of the impetus women have given the war machine by their physical labour crystallised into poignant realisation before these very wonderful pictures. Frail young girls handling vital parts of instruments of

titanic destruction; earnest women who, in pre-war days, were probably incapable of putting a defective carpet-sweeper to rights, now running complicated machines with aplomb; bright young mechanics in short skirts skillfully putting up electric fittings in one of his Majesty's ships—all these things and many more are pictured in the series, which has also been expanded to show something of what the Welfare Department is doing for the women in gratitude for their work for the nation.

Bright groups in canteens show that war work has its amenities. Exhibited in a place where women congregate, the pictures should do much to inspire a notable increase in offers to do war work from women of leisure.

VOLUNTEER ORDERS.

Corps Orders issued to-day by Lieut-Colonel A. Chapman, V.D., state:—

Leave.

(a) The undermentioned are granted leave for the duration of the war with effect from the dates mentioned:—

No. 1544 Corp. L. S. Greenhill from 5.3.17.

No. 1519 Gr. J. C. England from 8.3.17.

No. 1617 Pte. T. Taylor from 8.3.17.

No. 1731 Pte. D. G. Oheesman from 5.3.17.

No. 1735 Pte. A. E. Cocks from 5.3.17.

No. 2045 Pte. F. D. Bisseker from 5.3.17.

No. 1370 Bomb. A. G. Macdonald from 8.3.17.

(b) No. 1489 Loc. Opl. J. M. Walker is granted 2 months' Sick leave from 31.3.17.

No. 904 Pte. L. Le Breton is granted 7 months' Sick leave from 7.3.17.

No. 1402 Pte. A. M. Wilkie is granted 1 year's Sick leave from 7.3.17.

Struck off.

The undermentioned have been struck off the strength of the Corps with effect from 7.3.17.

No. 2044 Pte. S. R. Moore, No. 2013 Spr. E. Bryant, and No. 1634 Pte. J. S. Rodriguez.

Guards.

Until further orders guards will parade at 5.49 p.m.

Parades.

Sunday 11th instant:—8.00 a.m. Artillery Battery, Belchers 6" Section, Left, Centre, Right Sections M. G. Co. Scouts Company, Civil Service Coy. and Signalling Section on Praya just East of Blake Pier and proceed by launch to Kowloon City Range for Field Firing. Dress: Drill order (Helmet) with haversack, waterbottle (filled) two pouches and 20 rounds ball ammunition.

Monday 12th instant:—5.10 p.m. Left, Centre, Right Sections M. G. Co. Scouts Company and Civil Service Company in marching order with 160 rounds ball ammunition outside Courts of Justice and proceed by car to Polo Ground; 5.15 p.m. Recruits of all units at Headquarters under Corp. Edgcombe and Corp. Grimes; 5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery at Belchers Battery; 8 to 10.30 p.m. E. L. class No. 1 and Engine Drivers of class No. 3 at Belchers Battery, and Electricians of class No. 3 at Kowloon West Battery.

Tuesday 13th instant:—7.30 a.m. Belchers 6" Section at Belchers Battery; 5.15 p.m. Stretcher Bearer Section at Headquarters and Mounted Section at Jockey Club Stables; 5.30 p.m. Signalling Section "A" and "B" classes at Wellington Barracks, and Artillery Battery at Belchers Battery; 8 to 10.30 p.m. E. L. class No. 2 at Belchers Battery.

Wednesday 14th instant:—5.30 p.m. E. L. classes 1, 2, and 3 and all members of Engineer Company not on duty at Volunteer Headquarters for lecture by 2nd Lieut. W. Brown, H. K. V.O., on "The Hornsby-Ackroyd Oil Engine."

Thursday 15th instant:—5.10 p.m. Left, Centre, Right Sections M. G. Co. Scouts Coy. and Civil Service Company in marching order with 150 rounds ball ammunition outside Courts of Justice and proceed by car to Polo Ground; 5.15 p.m. Mounted Section at Jockey Club Stables; 5.30 p.m. Artillery Battery at Belchers Battery; 8 to 10.30 p.m. E. L. class No. 1 and Engine Drivers of class No. 3 at Belchers Battery, and Electricians of class No. 3 at Kowloon West Battery.

Friday 16th instant:—7.30 a.m. Belchers 6" Section at Belchers Battery; 4.45 p.m. Left, Centre, Right Sections M. G. Co. Scouts Company and Civil Service Company in Field Service marching order (waterbottle filled) with 160 rounds ball ammunition outside Courts of Justice and proceed by car to Polo Ground. (The G. O. O. will be present at this parade); 5.15 p.m. Recruits of all units at Headquarters. Corp. Edgcombe and Corp. Grimes will attend; 5.30 p.m. Signalling Section "A" and "B" classes at Wellington Barracks, and Artillery Battery

GAMBLING IN KWANGSAL.

Inactivity of Civil Governor.

Says the *Peking Daily News*:—In the 28th and 29th years of the Emperor Kwang Hsu, Kwangsai Province was honeycombed with tui, who traversed the province in bands several thousands strong, murdering and looting the peaceful inhabitants, and it was finally found that the principal cause of the disturbances was gambling, which is inseparable from theft and robbery. General Sham Chun-hen spent two years in suppressing the trouble, and when normal conditions were restored he issued proclamations all over the province strictly prohibiting gambling of all kinds. Since then no gang of robbers were seen until last year, when the financial condition of the province was most desperate on account of the suppression of the Monarchy movement. General Luk Wing-tung removed the gambling prohibition, in order to raise funds for his Northern Expedition. It was then decided that after a period of six months, gambling should be suppressed again, but on account of the transfer of General Luk to Kwangtung, his successor has not been strict in the matter. When the gambling licences were renewed, the Provincial Assembly and the gentry of the province telegraphed to the Central Government strongly objecting to the decision of their Shenchang, and Parliament in Peking also passed resolutions on the prohibition of gambling in Kwangsai, but no result was obtained. As the third period licences are soon to be issued to the gamblers, the people have again sent petitions to the Central Government to check the actions of the Shenchang there, but it is not sure whether the Central Government will listen to their demand.

Kwangsai is certainly hard up, but there is no need of so large a sum to make up the deficits. The first period licence produced \$800,000, and this together with the sum of \$700,000 granted by the late President, would be more than sufficient to defray the expenses of the new recruits of two thousand men and expedition of General Luk's troops to Hunan. The annual subvention from the Central Government and the neighbouring provinces is usually several tens of thousands of dollars, but since the reform of the land tax last year there has been an annual increase of more than a million dollars. Therefore we believe that there will be no further deficit in the Budget. Moreover, the authorities can reduce the present number of troops, thus saving a large fund. It is reported that no person, be he an official or ordinary citizen, is safe outside the city wall of the provincial capital there. There have been many cases of robbery reported to each district Magistrate each day. One day in Chaochinghsien alone 60 robbers were executed. It is said that the troubles of the 28th and 29th Years of Kwang Hsu will be repeated if the Shenchang of that province should continue to issue licences to gamblers. Before his taking over the affairs of the province, Shenchang Lin declared that the first thing he would do to reform the province was to re-enforce the gambling prohibition, but when he arrived he reported to the Central Government that it was impossible to enforce the prohibition.

at Belchers Battery; 8 to 10.30 p.m. E. L. class No. 2 at Belchers Battery.

Detail.

On duty 18th instant, Centre Section M. G. Company; 19th, Right Section M. G. Company; 20th, Scouts Company; 21st, Scouts Company; 22nd, Civil Service Company; 23rd, Artillery Battery; 24th, Belchers 6" Section.

Orderly Officer from 18th to 24th instant, Lieut. Danby.

Notice.

A meeting of the members of the Sergeants Mess will be held in the Mess Room at 6.30 p.m. on Monday the 12th instant. All members are requested to attend.

MORE WAR WASTE.

Precept and Example in Whitehall.

In the studious husbandry of material resources, the Government Departments, according to their wont, are setting a shining example. Here is a case in point. At Plymouth the other day an ambulance motor, belonging to the Admiralty, engaged merely on run-about work, got into difficulties with a taxi-cab, in circumstances susceptible of more than one explanation. According to the Admiralty account, "the speed of the taxi-cab caused it to skid, and the driver thus to lose control," while, if other witnesses were to be believed, "the accident was directly due to the gross negligence and carelessness of the driver of the ambulance." In any event, the damage to the ambulance motor was estimated at only £13a. 8d., yet the trumpery case was referred by the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty to the Plymouth County Court, Counsel from London being instructed and the time of the Court wasted for upwards of three hours. Finally, the Admiralty won their twenty-three and eightpence, the case, according to the local reporter, having "engaged some 20 persons, including Army and Navy Officers, four motor drivers, a Trinity pilot, a warrant officer from Dover, an engine fitter and a stavedrover ganger"—all or most of whom were doubtless "losing time" from their regular employments. As it happened, some of the extravagant "costs" of these proceedings were recovered from the defendants, but things might easily have fallen out otherwise, and the whole episode was a monument of waste, which we cordially commend to the notice of the official exponents of national thrift. We are afraid that such divergencies between official preachment and practice are of common occurrence; perhaps some day business will really be introduced into departmental methods.—*John Bull.*

A WAR LOAN ALPHABET.

The War Savings Committee has issued the following War Loan Alphabet:—

A is for Asking the nation to lend.
B is for Belgium, whose right we defend.
C is for Certificates still to be sold.
D is for Do it; turn silver to gold.
E is the Exchequer, which asks for our cash.
F is for the French with their wonderful dash.
G stands for German, whose gods are his guns.
H is for the Hate of the Hungriest Hun.
I is for Interest earned if we lend.
J is for June and the first dividend.
K is for the Kitchener, lost 'neath the foam.
L is for the Loan that will bring the boys home.
M is for Munitions, for which we must pay.
N is for the Navy, our strength and our stay.
O is for Ocean, by which Britain grips.
P is for Paper the Huns tore to strips.
Q is the Question—How much will you lend?
R is for Russia, Redoubtable friend.
S is for our Sailors and Seas that they sail.
T is for our Trust that the Truth will prevail.
U is for Unity—all must help all.
V is for Victory, now within call.
W is the War Loan that Britons must buy.
X is the amount they can raise if they try.
Y is for Ypres, where men fought for us.
Z is Count Zeppelin, making a fuss.

Alice Memorial Hospital.
The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the Hospitals:—Parson's Charity Fund, \$100.

A DEATH BLOW TO GERMAN DYES.

What British Enterprise is Doing

One of the largest import businesses of China before the war was that of aniline dyes, the greater part of which, of course, came from Germany, that country having a world monopoly. After the war there will be a change, for the world will no longer be dependent on Germany for dyes, and in England and America steps have been taken permanently to deprive Germany of her former dye monopoly. Before long the Chinese dealers and consumers will be as familiar with the new British package as they were with that which came from Germany.

An idea of what one company has done in England since the war may be got from the report of the Chairman's speech at the annual meeting of Messrs. Levinstein Ltd., held at Manchester at the end of December. It revealed what has been described as an industrial romance and the shares of this company are now selling at £70, —par value £10. In 1914 they went begging at 10s. Only a year ago they were quoted at £23.

For the years ended June 30, 1915 and 1916, dividends of 30 per cent. were paid.

Sir John Lonsdale, Bart., M. P., told the story of the progress of Levinstein's in his chairman's speech. Among other things he said:—

"At the beginning of the war we had but one factory. To-day, counting the plant which has been erected in America for the manufacture of certain specialties, we own four factories, of which the principal one, here at Blackley, is many times larger than on June 30, 1914. The company has invested in the purchase of new works and in the erection of new plant over half a million pounds sterling. All the new work has been carried out and at a time when the cost of labour and material is exceptionally high. It has been no part of the policy of your directors to take advantage of the absence of German competition, consequent upon the war, for the purpose of paying out large dividends to our shareholders."

"The dividend of 30 per cent on our ordinary share of £60,000, which we have already paid out of the profits for the year, represents in fact a very small percentage on the actual capital employed in our undertaking and our energies have been concentrated upon building up a business which will be permanent after the war and which will, we hope and believe, enable us to take the place formerly occupied by the German dye manufacturers. Our profits have been large, and if you have not received a larger amount in dividends you have at a rate (some the owners of a business which has enormously increased in extent, and which has been fortunate in being able to render great service to the country.)"

Reference was made to the death in March, 1916, of Mr. Ivan Levinstein who founded the works in 1865, and regret was expressed that he was not spared to see the fruition of his work. For years Mr. Levinstein had fought for the British dye industry and for the reform of British patent laws. In recording his death an important German journal had referred to him as "a life-long fanatical opponent of German industry."

Replying to criticism that the company had paid no dividends for a number of years before the war, the chairman said:—

"It will no doubt interest you to know that during the three years preceding the war the annual profit averaged £18,843, sufficient to pay a dividend of 28 per cent. to the ordinary shareholders after deducting the preference dividend, and rather more than ten times as much as was necessary to pay the preference dividend. Your directors preferred to utilise these profits in modernising, extending, and improving the works, and in research work."

"We have never underrated the difficulties or the menace from Germany, and if we had not adopted the policy which I have indicated we should not have been able to accomplish the results which have been obtained since the outbreak of war. By

PORTUGUESE TROOPS IN FRANCE.

A Good Impression.

To-day, says a writer in a recent home paper, I have been in the company of some of the officers of the Portuguese Expeditionary Force in France and came away particularly impressed by the soldierly smartness and remarkable zeal, as well as the excellent physique of all the members of the group.

The party belonged to the artillery branch and were attending a lecture—I might more correctly describe it as a chatty description—dealing with some of the special features of trench warfare on the western front. The lecturer, who was a British liaison officer, spoke in French and it was easy to see by the manner in which his hearers followed him, frequently interjecting queries or exchanging comments, that they very clearly grasped all that was said. Indeed those of our officers who have come in contact with the Portuguese speak highly of their military training and efficiency.

The uniform is very similar to that of the French army, but with a slight elusive grey tint in the blue colour scheme. Overcoats are of the British khaki pattern, and the cap is very similar to that worn by our troops, except that it is blue. I understand that the officers are highly pleased at the cordiality of the reception they have met with since their arrival. They talk freely about the Peninsular War.

new inventions and improved processes and plant we succeeded in the three years before the war in making the largest profits in the history of the Company and in laying firmly and strongly the foundations on which our present business is built."

In August, 1916, the company acquired the Ellesmere Port factory of Moister, Lucas, and Braunstein, for the manufacture of synthetic indigo. The factory was erected by this German company in 1908, in consequence of the Patent Act of 1907—an Act of Parliament passed in that year—when Mr. Lloyd George was President of the Board of Trade, and very largely as a result of the pioneer work of the late Mr. Levinstein. The factory was set running in October and is now producing indigo of excellent quality in large quantities.

Levinsteins also purchased the old-fashioned business of Messrs. Claus and Co. Ltd., aniline dye manufacturers, of Clayton, Manchester. Messrs. Claus and Co. have distinguished themselves since the outbreak of war by some very excellent work in connection with what are known as "vat dyes." By acquiring Claus and Co. the company considerably increased its range of dyes and, in the view of the chairman, this combination has brought the company nearer to solving the problem of making Britain entirely independent of German dyes.

Another enterprise in which Messrs. Levinsteins are interested reached a successful conclusion late in December, when there was established in Italy the "Industria Nazionale Colori di Anilina"—a company with powerful financial and official support. Concerning this, the chairman said:—

"This is the first joint operation, since the war, between large Italian and British commercial interests, and, as such, we think it will meet with the official approval of both countries. The object of the Italian Company is to create a large dye industry in Italy, one which will be capable of rendering the importation of German dyestuffs unnecessary to the textile and other dye-using industries in that country. The technical direction of the new concern has been vested in this company, and we have a considerable financial interest in its success. It will, I am sure, be gratifying to you to know that the Italian people have given such substantial proof of their confidence in the ability of our company to carry out the important object which the Allied countries all have in view."

